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MSU Groups Tour Montana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seven performing organizations from the Montana State University School of Fine Arts will tour Montana in March, Dean Luther A. Richman announced. They are the Men's Glee Club, the Montana Masquers, the Opera Workshop, the Jubileers, the Concert Band, the University Choir and the MSU Symphonette.

The groups will travel 7,000 miles and present about 50 separate performances for a total audience of 15,000, the dean said. Since the Associated Students of MSU pays transportation of four of the groups, their tours are a service to Montana by the student body, not the University, the dean explained.

ASMSU appropriates \$3,450 from student activity fees to underwrite such projects, Dean Richman said. Programs supported by ASMSU include a lecture and concert series, the biennial all-school show and, in part, the MSU athletic program. Travel funds for the Men's Glee Club and the Air Cadet Chorus are provided by the AFROTC Cadet Corps, and the annual Masquer tour is paid for from box office receipts.

Sponsoring organizations in the communities where the groups will appear will arrange to feed and house the personnel at their own expense, the dean said. Sponsors are free to charge admission to performances and keep profits, he said.

First to take to the road will be the Men's Glee Club, directed by Joseph Mussulman, assistant professor of music. This is the first season in many years that MSU has had a group of this type, the dean said. He added he hopes the tour will encourage male chorus singing in Montana schools and communities.

The glee club will sing in St. Ignatius, Thompson Falls and Noxon on March 1, and in Stevensville and Hamilton, March 2. The Air Cadet Chorus, a subsidiary of the glee club, will perform for several functions at Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane, March 8 and 9. Funds for both trips are provided by the AFROTC Cadet Corps.

(more)

The Opera Workshop, directed by Prof. John Lester, with George Lewis of the music faculty as assistant director, will perform in Helena March 15, Moore, March 16 and Choteau March 17. School assembly programs are scheduled in White Sulphur Springs, Harlowton, Ryegate and Roundup March 16, and in Lewistown and Stanford March 17.

The Jubileers will appear in Kalispell March 19; in Polson, Ronan and Whitefish March 20; in Libby and Spokane March 21 and 22, and in Superior March 22. Mussulman, director of MSU choral organizations, is the Jubileers' conductor.

The Concert Band, directed by James Eversole, will play in Drummond and Anaconda March 20, in Deer Lodge and Great Falls March 21, in Fort Benton and Havre March 22, in Chester and Cut Bank March 23, in Sunburst and Conrad March 24 and in Helena March 25.

Montana Masquers will also be traveling during MSU's spring vacation, giving shows in Libby, Conrad, Butte, Helena, Big Sandy, Gildford, Poplar, Plentywood, Havre and Bozeman. In addition, the Masquers will present an original one-act play and drama workshop assembly program in 15 to 20 other high schools this season.

The MSU Symphonette, directed by Prof. Eugene Andrie, and the University Choir, led by Mussulman, will give joint performances in Billings March 28, Miles City March 29, and Red Lodge March 30. They will play for school assembly programs in Worden March 29, and in Hardin March 30.

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